

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.08

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 10/16/2006

GAIN Report Number: RO6021

Romania Livestock and Products Classical Swine Fever Update 2006

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Report Highlights:

Romania will resume vaccination against Classical Swine Fever in feral and domestic pigs. The inoculation process will start effectively on November 1, 2006 in individual households, and on January 1, 2007 in commercial farms.

Includes PSD Changes: No Includes Trade Matrix: No Unscheduled Report Sofia [BU1] [RO]

Classical Swine Fever

In September 2006, the European Union's Permanent Veterinary Committee approved the request of the Romanian Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority to resume vaccination against Classical Swine Fever. Vaccination will resume effectively on November 1, 2006 in individual households, and on January 1, 2007 in commercial farms.

In January 2003, Romania stopped vaccinations in individual households, and in January 2006 stopped vaccinations in commercial farms. These actions were taken to comply with EU requirements.

Consequences have been negative, with 416 outbreaks reported this year, affecting 4,200 pigs. All cases were identified in individual households, and none in commercial farms. The current situation is alarming, so the Veterinary Agency will introduce an identification system consisting of two different vaccines: the marker vaccine ("M") and the C virus vaccine ("V"), which is alive but weak. This system will allow full traceability and will ensure that meat products from vaccinated animals are consumed only within Romania.

A clear, formal distinction will be made between raising hogs on a commercial farm and an individual household (with fewer than 20 pigs). All pigs originating in commercial farms, and which have already contacted the virus, will be slaughtered. Pigs raised by householders and small farmers may be vaccinated and their meat used only for individual or local consumption within the village of origin.

Romanian swine exports to European countries have been prohibited since January 1, 2003. They will be permitted when swine fever is eradicated and vaccinations have completely stopped for at least six months.

The EU will provide Romania with vaccines to effectively carry out its vaccination programs. The provision of these vaccines will be funded through the EU Veterinary Fund.